

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

E - 572,235

S - 717,559

MAY 10 1957

Union Leader

Bias Reuther

On CIA Funds

By MARTIN J. HERMAN
Of The Bulletin Staff

The head of the AFL-CIO's Maritime Department said last night that it was "sheer demagoguery" for United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther to criticize the Central Intelligence Agency after receiving funds from the organization.

The official Paul Hall, a vice president of the National AFL-CIO, said he was "appalled" to learn that Reuther accepted \$50,000 in CIA funds to help bolster unions in post-war Europe against Communist subversion.

"I couldn't believe it when I first heard it," Hall said. "It's sheer demagoguery to take \$50,000 in \$50 bills from the CIA and then go around and start hollering that the agency's activities are immoral."

Hall spoke at an impromptu news conference following the seventh annual banquet of the Philadelphia Maritime Trades Port Council at the Latin Casino in Merchantville, N. J.

Some 1,500 persons, including a score of city officials led by Mayor Tate, attend the dinner in honor of William A. Foley, secretary-treasurer of Local 57, Laborers' International Union of North America.

Hall's remarks were made in response to a question concerning the disclosure by a one-time CIA executive, Thomas W. Braden, that he turned over thousands of dollars in CIA funds to American labor unions to help bolster European unions against Red subversion.

Reuther, who has said the CIA should not place in jeopardy the integrity of groups such as labor unions and student organizations, confirmed he accepted the \$50,000 from the intelligence agency.

Reuther said the money was used to supplement American trade union funds being used to finance educational and organizational programs for unions in Europe.

Hall said that while Reuther criticizes CIA involvement with unions and student organizations, his union "is the only ranking trade union which has had CIA money pinned on it."

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